(d) the steps taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, the telecom district-wise information is given below:—

No. of STD/ISD and local PCOs working in Assam as on 30-06-2002

S.No.	Name of the Telecom District	STD/ISD/PCOs	Local PCOs
1.	Kamrup	4054	23
2.	Dibrugarh	1181	22
3.	Silchar	1562	41
4.	Jorhat	910	80
5.	Bongaigaon	1224	107
6.	Tezpur	1542	10
7.	Nagaon	964	94

(b) to (d) According to the present policy PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants as per their registration subject to the technical feasibility. The number of booths to be installed during 2002-03 depends on the availability of eligible applicants and technical feasibility. No separate funds are allocated for this purpose and the STD/ISD/PCOs are available on demand in Assam.

Requirement of witness for opening of Savings Account

2354. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether for opening of a Savings Account in Post Office, a witness is required who already holds an account in the same branch;

(b) if so, whether for opening of another account by the same person in the same branch the usual formality is again required;

(c) if so, whether such formality is not required in the Nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the reasons of discrimination in opening of accounts in post offices in comparison to the Nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As existing account holder does not require a witness.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Target for I.T. Exports

2355. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for I.T. exports during this year; and

(b) Government's role in the growth of domestic hardware brands to enable India to become a major power in that sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The Tenth Five Year Plan has set up a target for I.T. Software Export of Rs. 54,000 crores during the Year 2002-2003.

(b) India Brand Equity Fund Trust under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary is assisting the individual brand promotions of established and reputed Indian brands in the overseas markets in the form of soft loans returnable in a period of 5 to 7 years along with obligation to pay nominal royalty on the increamental sales of the branded products in the thrust areas during the repayment period of the loan. The Trust also supports generic promotion of India as a reliable supplier of quality goods and services and supports International promotions to project India as a whole as well as specific production sectors.

Software Technology Parks

2356. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of software technology parks of India units have either got their licences cancelled or closed down during the last two years;